

Season

2023 - 2024

**KOR  
MALTA  
MALTA**  
KORMALTA  
MALTA NATIONAL CHOIR







FOREWORD BY

## DOMINIC GALEA

*CEO of NAPA, National Agency for  
the Performing Arts*

Since its inception, KorMalta has formidably worked towards filling in the lacunae of choir music in Malta. KorMalta now forms part of NAPA, the National Agency for the Performing Arts, with ŻfinMalta and TeatruMalta, as together we continue to champion the performing arts on a local level and even on an international one.

KorMalta aims to inspire and uplift audiences, creating lasting memories and forging connections. Whether in sacred spaces, concert halls, or community gatherings, KorMalta will continue to transcend language barriers, offering a universal language of emotion and celebration, enriching lives, and promoting cultural understanding.

Presenting us with a varied programme, the national choir aims to intertwine the ties between the past and the present through various genres, including baroque, sacred music, and pop. Thanks to this season, KorMalta is playing a pivotal role in preserving and celebrating diverse musical traditions, connecting generations, and nurturing creativity, whilst also addressing the significance of culture and the arts within the social and community aspect. Thanks to this programme,

We invite you to explore the wonderful world of choral music together with us, this season.

KorMalta has formidably worked towards filling in the lacunae of choir music in Malta.





FOREWORD BY  
**RICCARDO BIANCHI**

*Artistic Director, KorMalta*

In the ever-evolving world of choral music, KorMalta embarks on a remarkable journey this year, promising an exciting blend of traditions and innovation. This season, we are thrilled to share our dedication not only to intensifying collaborations within the realm of Baroque music, thanks to our partnerships with the Baroque Festival and the Valletta International Baroque Ensemble, but also to systematically delve into the intricate world of the Renaissance.

Our commitment to musical exploration takes us to new heights as we present a series of Sacred concerts seamlessly interwoven within the tapestry of liturgical traditions. This harmonic convergence of past and present, sacred and secular, promises to be a transcendent experience for both our audience and performers alike.

However, the hallmark of this season

lies in our bold foray into the realm of pop music. With meticulous attention to choral composition, we strive to bridge the gap between the light-hearted allure of contemporary genres and the enduring quality of classical composition. This unique blend promises to deliver performances that resonate with both the connoisseurs of choral artistry and those who appreciate the allure of pop music.

As we embark on this musical odyssey, we invite you to join us on this enchanting journey, where the timeless melodies of the past converge with the vibrant rhythms of the present, all while maintaining the unwavering commitment to excellence that defines the KorMalta ensemble.

“Our commitment to musical exploration takes us to new heights”





KORMALTA SEASON PROGRAMME  
2023-2024

**2023 - 2024 Dates**

- 23<sup>rd</sup> Sep** | Opening Season Launch Concert - Sunrise  
Sacred Series - Christ the King | **29<sup>th</sup> Oct**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov** | Sacred Series - All Souls  
MSA 100 Year Anniversary | **7<sup>th</sup> Dec**
- Sacred Series - Immaculate Conception | **8<sup>th</sup> Dec**
- Enchanted Christmas | **20<sup>th</sup> Dec**
- 11<sup>th</sup> Jan** | St. John Passion J.S. Bach
- 27<sup>th</sup> Jan** | Rock - Baroque
- Armida | **3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>,  
8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>  
Mar**
- Holy Week Concert | **27<sup>th</sup> Mar**
- 20<sup>th</sup> Apr** | The Great Siege
- Winter Moods | **May**
- Jun** | Ćiklopu



**2023 - 2024**  
PROGRAMME



**KORMALTA**  
MALTA NATIONAL CHOIR



## Season Launch

### *Sunrise*

23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2023

Teatru Manoel, Valletta

Conductor: Riccardo Bianchi

Ola Gjeilo's renowned Sunrise Mass for chorus and string orchestra is an exceptionally light and moving piece. It offers a modern and original interpretation of sacred music, transforming the traditional Latin

text into a worldly and rugged experience with dramatic emotions. KorMalta presents this work for the first time with its full formation, marking the inaugural concert of its 2023/2024 Season.

## Sacred Series

### *Christ the King*

29<sup>th</sup> October, 2023

Jesuit's Church, Valletta

Join KorMalta on a journey of sacred music and Renaissance polyphony within the Eucharistic celebration. In collaboration with Jesuit's Church, KorMalta presents ancient music during Holy Mass

on special liturgical occasions. This event features Jacopo Fogliano's polyphonic mass for four voices, combining peaceful harmonies with improvisation and modern rhythms.

## Sacred Series

### *All Souls*

2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2023

Church of the Jesuits, Valletta

Experience a special Eucharistic celebration as KorMalta Choir performs Palestrina's 'Missa ad fugam' at the Church of the Jesuits

in Valletta. Immerse yourself in sublime harmonies and sacred ambiance on this commemorative day.

## MSA

### *100 Year Anniversary*

7<sup>th</sup> December, 2023

Palazzo de La Salle, Valletta

KorMalta joins the celebration of the Malta Society of Arts' 100-year anniversary with a curated concert by Karl Fiorini. The program includes Maltese music for choir a cappella.

## Sacred Series

### *Immaculate Conception*

8<sup>th</sup> December, 2023

Church of the Jesuits, Valletta

Celebrate Immaculate Conception Day with Kormalta Choir's female ensemble, presenting a captivating choral journey filled with divine melodies. The program ranges from timeless hymns to enchanting sacred compositions.

### *Enchanted Christmas*

20<sup>th</sup> December, 2023

Spazju Kreattiv, Valletta

Embrace the enchantment of the holiday season at a captivating Christmas concert presented by KorMalta, where a remarkable all-female choir will transport you to a world of musical wonder. Delight in the timeless charm of cherished traditional carols and be prepared to uncover hidden treasures of

musical brilliance that will fill your heart with warmth and elevate your festive joy to new heights. Join us for an unforgettable evening of melodic enchantment and seasonal splendor as we celebrate the magic of Christmas through harmonious melodies and joyful voices.

## St. John Passion

### *J.S. Bach*

12<sup>th</sup> January, 2024

St. John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta

Celebrate Bach's famous St. John Passion on its 300th anniversary at St. John's Co-Cathedral. This iconic masterpiece will be brought to life

by KorMalta, the Valletta Baroque Ensemble, and local soloists in the opening concert of the Baroque festival."

## Rock

### *Baroque*

27<sup>th</sup> January, 2024

Teatru Manoel, Valletta

Prepare for the encore of 'BaRock,' a dynamic fusion of rock and baroque classics brought to you by Kormalta, in collaboration with The Rock Troupers. This returning collaboration promises an explosive and innovative musical experience, seamlessly blending

iconic compositions from Bach to Pink Floyd. Following the previous success, KorMalta proudly presents this popular concert, uniting rock and baroque genres for an unforgettable and captivating musical journey.



## *Armida*

3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>

March, 2024

Teatru Manoel, Valletta

In this spellbinding opera, follow the story of Armida, a captivating yet malevolent sorceress, who seeks to rekindle the love of the valiant Frankish knight, Rinaldo, through her mystical spells. Witness Rinaldo's initial enthrallment in Armida's web of sorcery, only to be later liberated by divine intervention

and the unwavering camaraderie of his fellow soldiers. Armida's vengeful fury and her legion of demons add an element of breathtaking drama to this epic tale. Join us at the Manoel Theatre for an extraordinary musical adventure you won't want to miss.

## *Holy Week Concert*

27<sup>th</sup> March, 2024

Spazju Kreattiv, Valletta

Immerse yourself in the essence of Easter with a traditional concert featuring a cappella music from various eras. Experience the profound themes of Passion and Crucifixion as we craft vivid and powerful soundscapes. From ancient melodies to cutting-edge

contemporary compositions, this Easter concert promises to transport you through time with its rich a cappella repertoire. Feel the spirit of the season as we harmonize the past and present in a moving musical journey.

## *The Great Siege*

20<sup>th</sup> April, 2024

Fort St. Angelo, Birgu

Step back in time and relive the epic saga of the Great Siege through 'Echoes of Siege,' a mesmerizing Renaissance concert. Embark on a musical odyssey that transcends centuries, as we transport you to the historic battlegrounds of Malta. Feel the pulse of history through stirring 'battle music' and be enraptured by

the majestic notes of Cristobal de Morales' profound 'Missa "homme arme."' Join us for an unforgettable evening that resurrects the past with exceptional performances of enchanting compositions, immersing you in the heart of this pivotal historical moment."

## Winter Moods

### *Symphonic Tribute*

May, 2024

Venue: TBC

This tribute, dedicated to a legendary band, promises to immerse you in a mesmerizing symphonic rock experience like no other. Get ready to journey through the timeless sounds that

have defined an era, as we pay homage to musical excellence with a symphonic twist. Stay tuned for more details on this extraordinary event that will resonate with your soul.

## Ċiklopu

June, 2024

Venue: Gozo

Experience the contemporary Maltese adaptation of Euripides' "Cyclops" in collaboration with Teatru Malta. Set against the stunning backdrop of Gozo in 2024, this production promises a captivating performance. Immerse

yourself in a unique fusion of tradition and modernity, as the classic Greek text is reimagined in the Maltese context. Join us for an unforgettable theatrical journey where history meets innovation.





## About KorMalta

KorMalta – Malta's National Choir is an initiative of the Arts Council Malta within the Ministry for National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government. Founded in 2018, KorMalta has undertaken intense work to make the national choir a qualified choral group, meeting even the most demanding and the widest type of choral repertoire: from a cappella polyphony to baroque, up to operatic symphonic productions.

The Choir presented a number of masterly performances, namely Beethoven's Ninth Symphony under the guidance of Brian Schembri and in collaboration with the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir, "The Planets" by G. Holst conducted by Michalis Economou, Mozart's Great Mass of C minor (edition completed by E. Levine) conducted by Peter Manning, The Armed Man by K. Jenkins conducted by Michael Laus, Requiem of Faure directed by Riccardo Bianchi, Chichester Psalms by Bernstein directed by Wayne Marshall. In the symphonic field,

February 2019 saw the participation of the live choir together with the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra for the soundtrack of the Disney Film "Beauty and the Beast". In the operatic field, 2020 KorMalta performed "Otello" by G. Rossini, "Tosca" by G. Puccini and in 2022 it proudly participated in the staging of "Le Maschere" by Pietro Mascagni, together with the reknown Filarmonica Arturo Toscanini, under the baton of Maestro Jacopo Brusa within the prestigious Illica Festival.

In addition to collaborations with the national orchestra, the choir collaborated closely with the Valletta International Baroque Ensemble, performing over the years critical acclaimed productions of Baroque music within the prestigious Valletta International Baroque Festival including: "Requiem" by F. Biber conducted by Stefano Molardi, "Messiah" by Handel in full version directed by Christian Curnyn, "Belshazzar" and "Dettingen Te Deum" by Handel, "Membra Jesu

Nostri" by Buxtehude conducted by Riccardo Bianchi.

During the last two musical seasons the choir consisting of 56 members and directed by its artistic director worked on numerous a cappella music projects both on the ancient and contemporary side. Recent engagements included William Byrd, Italian Renaissance motets and medieval polyphony in the concert dedicated to Dante, a cappella performances of Xenakis "A Helena" together with music by Pizzetti and Castelnuovo Tedesco as part of the Malta International Spring Festival. KorMalta also devoted himself to research on ancient polyphony, performing in modern premiere a collection of "Lamentations of the Prophet Jeremiah" published by LeRoy & Ballard in 1557. This work was presented in London at the prestigious Temple Church. The most stylistic trait of KorMalta is the musical eclecticism and the propensity to collaborate with other art forms, creating innovative performances with the collaboration

of visual arts artists, actors and dancers, as in the case of the iconic performance of Sunrise Mass by Ola Gjeilo performed at dawn in the Megalithic Temples of Mnajdra in collaboration with the national dance company, ZfinMalta in collaboration with Heritage Malta.

As of July 2023, KorMalta has taken a significant step forward in its journey by uniting under the umbrella of the New National Agency for the Performing Arts (NAPA), alongside TeatruMalta and ŻfinMalta. This historic collaboration, facilitated by NAPA, aims to foster enhanced cooperation, resource sharing, and expertise exchange while preserving the individual identities and unique contributions of each institution to Malta's vibrant performing arts landscape. This new chapter heralds a promising era for KorMalta, as it continues to inspire and enrich the cultural tapestry of Malta and beyond.









National Agency for  
the Performing Arts  
Aġenzija Nazzjonali  
għall-Arti Performattiva